

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation)	
)	
or Suspension of the Educator's)	ORDER OF
)	
Certificate of Francean Hallman)	REVOCATION
)	
Certificate # 194038)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 11, 2003. On July 5, 2002, and August 27, 2002, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator's certificate (certificate) to Ms. Hallman by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Hallman did not claim either notice; both were returned to the Department. The United States Postal Service confirmed that Ms. Hallman still received her mail at the address in question during the time both notices were mailed. On October 4, 2002, the Department requested that the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department personally serve Ms. Hallman at her last known address. The Sheriff's Department learned from her sister that Ms. Hallman left the State of South Carolina and did not leave a forwarding address. On three occasions commencing January 6, 2003, and concluding January 20, 2003, the Department published the notice in the Orangeburg Times and Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of Ms. Hallman's last known address. Ms. Hallman did not request a hearing and is in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to revoke Ms. Hallman's teaching certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Hallman holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over fourteen years of teaching experience. Ms. Hallman was a teacher and coach at Dreher High School in Richland County School District One (District) during the 2001-2002 school year. The District suspended her for two weeks in January, 2002, after several female students

made complaints of sexual harassment against her stating that she made sexually inappropriate gestures and remarks to them. Two students filed harassment complaints with the police department. One student alleged that Ms. Hallman grabbed a part of her body in a sexually suggestive manner, in the student's presence. Another student alleged Ms. Hallman told her that she expected sexual favors in return for a loan the student requested. Ms. Hallman did not return to the District for the 2002-2003 school year.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either suspend or revoke the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: "Unprofessional conduct, Any conduct involving moral turpitude, and Evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Ms. Hallman, supports its decision to revoke Ms. Hallman's teaching certificate # 194038.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
February 11, 2003